

MILITARY WORKS—NORTHEAST FRONTIER.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 1169.]

FEBRUARY 25, 1839.

Laid before the House by the Chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

February 21, 1839.

SIR: I have the honor to lay before the Committee on Military Affairs an extract of the report of the board of engineers, on the subject of the points at which the erection of proper defences for the frontier of the State of Maine is necessary. The Department concurs in the opinions of the board, and respectfully recommends an appropriation of the sum estimated by it, \$100,000, for operations during the present year, and that, in conformity with its suggestion, it be made unspecific.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

J. R. POINSETT.

Hon. J. J. McKAY,

Chairman Com. on Military Affairs, H. R.

Extract from a report of the board of engineers to the Secretary of War, on the subject of the defence of the frontier of Maine, dated February 20, 1839.

“In this view of the subject, there are needed—

1st. A military establishment at the junction of Dead river and the Kennebeck.

2d. A military establishment at the junction of Mattewamkeag and Penobscot.

3d. A military establishment at Calais, with collateral works at Eastport.

4th. A central arsenal at Bangor.

5th. A fort on the Penobscot, opposite Belfast.

To which are to be added advanced works, as occasion may call for them.

We must here remark, that, not only is it impossible for us to indicate, in the present state of our knowledge, the proper form or magnitude of the establishments above enumerated, but we must insist on the importance of very careful and deliberate examinations of the ground, before the exact positions even be determined. Of course, estimates made at this moment cannot pretend to be more than mere conjectures of the amount that may probably be expended with judgment within the year. It

would be a great advantage if the sum allowed for these objects should be granted without apportionment to them severally. In that case, it is thought that \$100,000 might be applied during the year to *military works at the head-waters of the Kennebeck, on the head-waters of the Penobscot, on the St. Croix river, at Eastport, at Bangor, and on the Penobscot, opposite Belfast; all in the State of Maine.*

Under the disadvantage of not having personally inspected the frontiers of Maine, the preceding remarks are offered with diffidence, not doubting that actual examination and surveys may lead to important modifications, if not radical changes."

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. R. POINSETT,
Chairman of the Board of Engineers in the Service of the State.

Hon. J. B. McKean,
Secretary of the State,
Maine.

1. A military establishment at the junction of the Kennebeck and the Penobscot rivers.
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